Cleaning and Disinfection After Persons Confirmed to Have COVID-19 Have Been in the Facility

Timing and location of cleaning and disinfection of surfaces

- **Non-Residential Facilities**: At a school, daycare center, office, or other facility that does not house people overnight:
  - Close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
  - Respiratory aerosols may linger in air for up to 3 hours. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
  - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
  - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.

- **Residential Facilities**: At a facility that does house people overnight:
  - Follow Interim Guidance for US Institutions of Higher Education on working with state and local health officials to isolate ill persons and provide temporary housing as needed.
  - Close off areas used by the ill persons and wait as long as practical before beginning cleaning and disinfection to minimize potential for exposure to respiratory droplets.
  - Respiratory aerosols may linger in air for up to 3 hours. If possible, wait up to 24 hours before beginning cleaning and disinfection.
  - Open outside doors and windows to increase air circulation in the area.
  - Cleaning staff should clean and disinfect all areas (e.g., offices, bathrooms, and common areas) used by the ill persons, focusing especially on frequently touched surfaces.
  - In areas where ill persons are being housed in isolation, follow Interim Guidance for Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection for U.S. Households with Confirmed Coronavirus Disease 2019. This includes focusing on cleaning and disinfecting common areas where staff/others providing services may come into contact with ill persons, but reducing cleaning and disinfection of bedrooms/bathrooms used by ill persons to as needed.
  - In areas where ill persons have visited or used, continue routine cleaning and disinfection as in this guidance.

**Personal Protective Equipment**

- Wear disposable nitrile gloves and disposable clothing protection e.g. gowns, Tyvek coveralls or lab coats, for all tasks in the cleaning process, including handling trash.
If reusable gloves are used, they should be dedicated for cleaning and disinfection of surfaces for COVID-19 and not used for other purposes. Reusable gloves must be decontaminated after use.

If reusable coveralls or lab coats are used, they must be collected after use, segregated, and laundered separately on the warmest setting possible.

If there is a risk of splashing while cleaning, a full face shield OR a mask (dust or surgical) plus eye protection (goggles, safety glasses) should be worn to protect your eyes, nose, and mouth.

Remove gloves and coveralls carefully to avoid contamination of the wearer and the surrounding area.

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Always wash immediately after removing gloves.
- Hand sanitizer: If soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol may be used. However, if hands are visibly dirty, always wash hands with soap and water.

Work Practices

Cleaning: refers to the removal of dirt and impurities, from surfaces. Cleaning alone does not kill germs, but it decreases their number and therefore the risk of spreading infection. It must be followed by disinfection.

Disinfection: works by using chemicals to kill germs on surfaces. This process does not necessarily clean dirty surfaces or remove germs. It must be preceded by cleaning.

- Surfaces
  - If surfaces are dirty, they should be cleaned using a detergent or soap and water prior to disinfection.
  - For disinfection, diluted household bleach solutions, alcohol (≥70% alcohol), and most common EPA-registered household disinfectants with appropriate contact time per label.
  - Follow manufacturer’s instructions for application and proper ventilation.

  **Caution:** *Never mix household bleach with ammonia or any other cleanser.*

- Soft Porous Items
  - Carpeted floor, rugs, and drapes, disinfect visible contamination if present or remove the item and clean with appropriate cleaners.
o If items can be removed and laundered then follow laundering instructions below for linens and clothing.

• **Linens & Clothing**
  
o Do not shake dirty laundry; this minimizes the possibility of dispersing virus through the air.
  
o Wash items as appropriate in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions.
  
o Launder items using the warmest appropriate water setting for the items and dry items completely.
  
o Clean and disinfect hampers or other carts for transporting laundry according to guidance above for hard or soft surfaces.

• **Waste**
  
o Cleaning waste (paper towels, gloves, etc.) may be discarded in regular trash.
  
o If applicable, comply with OSHA’s standards on Bloodborne Pathogens outlined in the Unit Exposure Control Plan (ECP)